


Copy No.

39
W
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
26 October 1956

TO : Deputy Director (Intelligence)
SUBJECT: The Present Political Situation in Hungary

On the basis of information available to us up to 1530 hours, we have arrived at the following conclusions concerning the present political situation in Hungary.

A. The government of Premier Imre Nagy at this point apparently does not exercise real authority. There may be, therefore, no effective central control of the Hungarian forces combatting the rebellion.

1. At least one regional government independent of the central regime has been formed in the provinces--the Workers Committee of Miskolc and Borsad County. This committee, organized since the rebellion, is willing to subordinate itself to the Nagy regime in exchange for the fulfillment of specific demands, but it clearly does not now consider itself subordinate.

2. Similar committees may exist in other provincial cities where disturbances have taken place.

3. Even in Budapest itself, the Central Organ of the National Trade Union Council and an unidentified writers group are acting independently--although not as yet in opposition--to the Nagy government. Both groups have published demands that the regime enact an immediate program in which will be incorporated a series of specific concessions. The writers, whose demands were published in the Trade Union newspaper, have demanded an immediate cessation of firing (against the rebels) by the police, an immediate withdrawal of all Soviet units to their bases and a "total amnesty for all combatants and soldiers."

B. If the Nagy regime is to reassert its authority in the provinces and on the groups acting independently in Budapest, it must make an announcement of the implementation of the demands presented to it. There are indications that the Nagy regime is prepared to do this. It is possible that Nagy may call for all Hungarian forces to cease fire and may demand similar action by the Soviet units.

Approved for Release
Data

SEP 1957

18

[REDACTED]

C. Because the situation in the Hungarian armed forces is not at all clear, the response to this call cannot be foreseen. It is certain that some Hungarian troop elements have sided with the rebels and Nagy's control of the "loyalist" and/or "neutralist" Hungarian troops may be tenuous, particularly those located in the provinces.

D. In this connection, [REDACTED] at 1700 hours (Hungarian time) a Hungarian radio station (precise location unknown) advised people in eight localities in the Pecs (southwestern Hungary) area to comply with the orders of military and police personnel who wear the Kossuth coat of arms rosette. This rosette is the traditional symbol of Hungarian nationalism and is not part of the regulation uniform. (The Miskolc Workers Committee had stated at 0010 hours on 26 October that their demands "bore the Kossuth coat of arms.")

E. The USSR must be fully aware of Nagy's loss of control. It thus may have to choose between: (a) the imposition, where possible, of Soviet martial law over all Hungarians, including those associated with the Nagy regime, in effect a Soviet military dictatorship; or (b) continued support of Nagy--if he does not call for the immediate withdrawal of Soviet forces--in an effort to allow him to restore his power. Such support could be temporary, i.e., could be offered as only an interim measure until such time as alternative (a) (above) could be introduced upon the arrival of Soviet military reinforcements.

[REDACTED]

Assistant Director
Current Intelligence

Orig: [REDACTED]

Dist: [REDACTED]